

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1897.

PRINTED BY JOHN W. PHELP, QUEEN'S ROAD, BUCKHURST HILL,
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

→* 1896. *←

I am happy to be able to state that the general health of the district has been better this year than last. The death rate shews a decrease of 3 per thousand, and compares favourably with that of any suburb of London.

(a). The district comprises an area of 899 acres and includes some 150 acres of forest land, streams, and roads, the population is nearly 5·43 per acre, and there are 880 inhabited houses in the district with an average of 5·5 persons in each house.

(b). The subsoil being of a stiff clay, having pockets of gravel and sand over its surface, the whole being on a considerable slope, affords excellent opportunities for drainage.

The employment of ventilating shafts during the past year, which has been of a more or less tentative nature, has turned out so satisfactorily that your Council will do well to consider the desirability of largely adding to this means of affording exit to the sewer gas.

(c). The water supply is from the East London Waterworks Company, and is of satisfactory quality, but as the supply is inconstant the quantity is unsatisfactory.

I have again to call your attention to the fact that there exist many shallow wells in the district and that owing to the geological conformation these cannot but be sources of danger to the community. I would urge your Council to close these wells as soon as in each case can be expediently done.

(d). The system of sewerage is the water carriage system, the sewers taking the rain water ; upon reaching the Sewerage Works, the solids are precipitated into "sludge" which is mixed with refuse and disposed of as manure, and the liquids are filtered through coke breeze and burnt clay.

The Local Government Board are now making enquiry into a system of sewerage disposal which may be called the "bacterial" which is on trial at Exeter. Should their report be favourable, it appears to be a system which would be suitable, from the point of view of expense and levels, to the requirements of Buckhurst Hill. There are W.C's. to nearly every house and most are supplied with water ; as cases come to the notice of myself or the Inspector these matters are attended to and rectified.

The houses of the working classes are in a fair condition as a rule, but I regret to say the houses in King's Place which caused so much trouble in the beginning of the year do not appear to be materially improved by the work done upon them.

(*e*). There are two streams in the district, one bounding it on the west, the other on the east, the latter receiving the effluent from the Sewerage Works.

Bye-laws have been adopted relating to dairies, slaughterhouses and nuisances.

(4). The notification of infectious diseases is in force in the district. Neither measles nor whooping cough are included in the schedule of notifiable disease, and while I cannot recommend your Council to go to the expense of including these diseases, or either of them, in the list, yet I think it would be of benefit if some working arrangement with the Public School authorities could be devised whereby early cases could be discovered and the spread of infection prevented—it is only by taking these diseases in time that there is possibility of preventing an epidemic.

In this place I may also suggest that tubercular disease, about whose infectiveness there is no longer any reasonable doubt, and whose presence is determinable with great exactitude, is a fit one to be added to the list of notifiable diseases, and no doubt considerable benefit might be expected from calling people's attention to the very communicable nature of this malady which is so fatally common, and so commonly fatal.

The annual birth rate was 26·17 as against 23·19 last year, the gross death rate was 13·61 as against 16·19 last year. The net death rate, allowing for three inhabitants who died out of the district and four non-inhabitants who died in the district, was 13·38. Last year the death rate for those under 5 years was 7·44; this year it is 3·85—a marked improvement.

Twenty-nine cases have been notified under the Infectious Diseases' Notification Act, but twenty persons have died of infectious diseases, seven being from whooping cough.

A summary of the work carried out by the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances is appended, he has paid 680 visits to the various premises in the execution of his duties which, I should like to say, have been performed in a most energetic and tactful manner.

	1895.	1896.	Increase or Decrease.
Annual Birth Rate	23·19	26·17	+ 2·98
Gross Annual Death Rate ...	16·19	13·61	—2·58
Corrected Death Rate (In 1896 add 3 and take away 4)	15·5	13·38	—2·12
Death Rate, under 5 years ...	7·44	3·85	—3·59
Death Rate from infectious diseases	4·4	3·85	—·55

Population, 1891	...	4130
Estimated ,, 1896	...	4870

A. AMBROSE, M.D., D.P.H.

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1896, in the Buckhurst Hill Urban Sanitary District,
classified according to Diseases and Ages.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
TOTALS...	64	10	7	4	3	21	19

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF
CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.			Whooping Cough.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL
			Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued								
Under 5		1			6						10	17
5 upwards	1		2	2	1	1	6	8	2	24	47	

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto, 3 in workhouse,
age unknown.

Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto : 5.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the
the year 1896, in the Buckhurst Hill Urban Sanitary District ; classified
according to Diseases and Ages.

	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1896	
TOTALS...	4130	4870	123

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.			Erysipelas.	TOTAL
				Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued			
Aged under 5 or over 5.								
Under 5		8	1					9
5 upwards	5	4		3	2	6		20

NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES FOR TREATMENT
IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Scarlatina, 3 ; Diphtheria, 1 ; Enteric or Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Erysipelas, 1.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR

in the Urban District of Buckhurst Hill,

during the Year ending December 31st, 1896.

						Total Number for Year.
Complaints received	{ <i>re</i> Dust collection		...	20	}	92
	{,, other matters		...	72		
Nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	...	107
„ abated	...	...	...	...	...	109
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	24
Summonses taken out...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conviction (the other summons was withdrawn on Owner doing the work)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected (31 times during year)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	„	„	...	5
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dangerous structures repaired or pulled down	...	...	...	...	...	8
Old houses re-drained (these consisted of one group of 5, one of 3, six pairs, and 8 single houses)	...	...	...	...	...	28
Amendments to drains	...	...	...	...	...	25
Houses connected with sewers in addition to new houses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privies and W.C.'s repaired (W.C.'s supplied with water)	...	...	...	...	...	28
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply amended)	...	...	...	...	...	31
Animals improperly kept removed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sundry nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	16
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of visits of Inspector in detecting the above referred to nuisances and supervising works for their abatement	...	...	...	...	...	442

New Buildings—

Plans submitted	...	...	...	...	...	30
Houses erected or re-built	...	...	...	...	...	21
Stables erected or re-built	...	...	...	...	...	3
Alterations and sundries	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits of Surveyor during progress	...	...	...	...	...	238

(Signed) H. TOOLEY, A.R.I.B.A.,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.



